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(2) Where the cognizant OCMI determines that survivors can wade ashore.

(i) As an alternative to the rescue boat required in §199.202, vessels may carry a rescue boat meeting the requirements of part 160, subpart 160.056 of this chapter if it is equipped with a motor and meets the following:

(1) The towline for the rescue boat must be at least the same size and length as the rescue boat painter.

(2) The rescue boat must meet the embarkation, launching, and recovery arrangement requirements in §199.160 (b) through (f). The OCMI may allow deviations from the rescue boat launching requirements based on the characteristics of the boat and the conditions of the vessel's route.

(j) As an alternative to the requirements of §199.203(a), a vessel that meets the subdivision requirements in §171.068 of this chapter may meet the requirements of §199.203(b).

(k) Vessels carrying lifebuoys may carry—

(1) The number of lifebuoys specified in table 199.630(k) of this section instead of the number required in §199.211; and

(2) If the vessel carries less than four lifebuoys, at least two with a self-igniting light attached to the lifebuoy. A buoyant lifeline may be fitted to one of the lifebuoys with a self-igniting light.

TABLE 199.630(k)—REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFEBOUYS

Length of vessel in meters (feet)	Minimum number of lifebuoys
Under 30 (98)	3
30 (98) and under 60 (196)	4
60 (196) and under 90 (297)	5
90 (297) and under 120 (393)	12
120 (393) and under 180 (590)	18
180 (590) and under 240 (787)	24
240 (787) and over	30

(1) A deck officer, able seaman, certificated person, or person practiced in the handling of liferafts or inflatable buoyant apparatus is not required to be placed in charge of each inflatable buoyant apparatus, provided that there are a sufficient number of such persons on board to launch the inflatable buoyant apparatus and supervise the embarkation of the passengers. The number of persons on board for the purpose of launching and operating inflatable buoyant apparatus may be reduced during any voyage where the vessel is carrying less than the number of passengers permitted on board, and the number of such persons is sufficient to launch and operate the number of survival craft required to accommodate everyone on board.

(m) The person designated second-in-command of survival craft is not required to be a certificated person if the person is practiced in the handling and operation of survival craft.

[CGD 84-069, 61 FR 25313, May 20, 1996; 61 FR 40281, Aug. 1, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 52821, Oct. 1, 1998; 63 FR 56067, Oct. 20, 1998; 63 FR 63798, Nov. 17, 1998]

§ 199.640 Alternatives for cargo vessels in a specified service.

(a) In addition to the alternatives for certain requirements in §199.620, cargo vessels operating in oceans; coastwise; Great Lakes; lakes, bays, and sounds; and rivers service may comply with alternative requirements to subparts A, B, and D of this part as described in this section for the services specified in table 199.640(a) of this section.

TABLE 199.640(a)—ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CARGO VESSELS IN A SPECIFIED SERVICE

Section or paragraph in this part	Service or reference to alternative requirement section				
	Oceans	Coastwise	Great Lakes	Lakes, bays, and sounds	Rivers
199.60(c): Distress signals	199.640(b) ¹ ...	199.640(b) ¹ ...	199.640(b) ¹ or 199.630(b).	Not Applicable ..	Not Applicable.
199.261: Number and type of survival craft carried.	199.640(c) ⁶ ...	199.640(c) ⁶ ...	199.640(c) ² or 199.640(d) or 199.640(e) ³ or 199.640(f) ⁴ .	199.640(c) ² or 199.640(d) or 199.640(e) ³ or 199.640(f) ⁴ .	199.640(c) or 199.640(d) or 199.640(e) ³ or 199.640(f) ⁴ .

TABLE 199.640(a)—ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CARGO VESSELS IN A SPECIFIED SERVICE—
Continued

Section or paragraph in this part	Service or reference to alternative requirement section				
	Oceans	Coastwise	Great Lakes	Lakes, bays, and sounds	Rivers
199.262: Rescue boat substitution ..	No Alternative	199.640(g)	199.640(g)	199.640(g) or 199.640(h) ⁵ .	199.640(g) or 199.640(h).
199.271: Lifebuoy quantity	No Alternative	199.640(i)	199.640(i)	199.640(i)	199.640(i).

NOTES:

¹ Alternative applies to vessels less than 150 tons gross tonnage that do not carry passengers or persons in addition to the crew.

² Alternative applies to cargo vessels less than 85 meters in length, tank vessels less than 500 tons gross tonnage, and nonself-propelled vessels.

³ Alternative applies during periods of the year that the vessel operates in warm water.

⁴ Alternative applies if the vessel operates in shallow water not more than 3 miles from shore where the vessel cannot sink deep enough to submerge the topmost deck.

⁵ Alternative applies if the vessel operates on sheltered lakes or harbors.

⁶ Alternative applies to vessels less than 500 tons gross tonnage.

(b) Vessels of less than 150 tons gross tonnage that do not carry persons other than the crew, may carry, as an alternative to distress signals that meet the requirements of §199.60, six hand red flare distress signals approved under approval series 160.021 and six hand orange smoke distress signals approved under approval series 160.037.

(c) As an alternative to the survival craft requirements of §199.261(b), (c), or (d), vessels may carry one or more liferafts with an aggregate capacity sufficient to accommodate the total number of persons on board. The liferafts must be—

(1) Readily transferable for launching on either side of the vessel; or

(2) Supplemented with additional liferafts to bring the total capacity of the liferafts available on each side of the vessel to at least 100 percent of the total number of persons on board. If additional liferafts are provided and the rescue boat required under §199.262 is also a lifeboat, its capacity may be included in meeting the aggregate capacity requirement.

(d) As an alternative to the survival craft requirements in §199.261 (b), (c), or (d), vessels may carry one or more totally enclosed lifeboats with an aggregate capacity sufficient to accommodate the total number of persons on board and one or more liferafts with an aggregate capacity sufficient to accommodate the total number of persons on board. This combination of survival craft must meet the following:

(1) The aggregate capacity of the lifeboats and liferafts on each side of the

vessel must be sufficient to accommodate the total number of persons on board.

(2) If the survival craft are stowed more than 100 meters (328 feet) from either the stem or the stern of the vessel, an additional liferaft must be carried and stowed as far forward or aft as is reasonable and practicable. The requirement for the liferaft to float free under §199.290(b) does not apply to a liferaft under this paragraph, provided the liferaft is arranged for quick manual release.

(e) As an alternative to the survival craft requirements in §199.261 (b), (c), or (d), during periods of the year the vessel operates in warm water, a vessel may carry lifefloats with an aggregate capacity sufficient to accommodate the total number of people on board. The lifefloat launching arrangement, stowage, and equipment must meet the requirements in §199.640(j).

(f) A vessel need not comply with the requirements for survival craft in §199.261 (b), (c), or (d) if the vessel operates—

(1) On a route that is in shallow water not more than 3 miles from shore and where the vessel cannot sink deep enough to submerge the topmost deck; or

(2) Where the cognizant OCMI determines that survivors can wade ashore.

(g) As an alternative to the rescue boat requirement in §199.262(a), vessels may carry a motor-propelled workboat or a launch that meets all the embarkation, launching, and recovery arrangement requirements in §199.160 (b)

through (f). The OCMI may allow deviations from the rescue boat launching requirements based on the characteristics of the boat and the conditions of the vessel's route.

(h) As an alternative to the rescue boat requirement in §199.262, vessels may carry a rescue boat meeting the requirements of part 160, subpart 160.056 of this chapter if the rescue boat is equipped with a motor and meets the following:

(1) The towline for the rescue boat must be at least the same size and length as the rescue boat painter.

(2) The rescue boat must meet the embarkation, launching, and recovery arrangement requirements in §199.160(b). A manually-powered winch may be used if personnel embark and disembark the rescue boat only when it is in the water. If the rescue boat is launched or recovered with personnel on board, the embarkation, launching, and recovery arrangements must also meet §199.160 (c) through (f). The OCMI may allow deviations from the rescue boat launching requirements based on the characteristics of the boat and the conditions of the vessel's route.

(i) As an alternative to the number of lifebuoys required in §199.271, vessels may carry—

(1) If the vessel is self-propelled, the number of lifebuoys specified in table 199.640(i) of this section; or

(2) If the vessel is non self-propelled, one lifebuoy on each end of the vessel.

TABLE 199.640(i)—REQUIREMENTS FOR LIFEBOUYS

Length of vessel in meters (feet)	Minimum No. of Lifebuoys
Under 30 (98)	3
30 (98) and under 60 (196)	4
60 (196) and under 100 (328)	6
100 (328) and under 150 (492)	10
150 (492) and under 200 (656)	12
200 (656) and over	14

(j) *Vessels carrying buoyant apparatus, inflatable buoyant apparatus, or lifefloats.* Vessels carrying buoyant apparatus, inflatable buoyant apparatus, or lifefloats must meet the following:

(1) *General.* Each buoyant apparatus and inflatable buoyant apparatus must be approved under approval series

160.010. Each lifefloat must be approved under approval series 160.027.

(2) *Stowage.* Each buoyant apparatus, inflatable buoyant apparatus, or lifefloat must, in addition to meeting the general stowage requirements of §199.130(a), be stowed as follows:

(i) Each inflatable buoyant apparatus must meet the liferaft stowage requirements in §199.130(c).

(ii) Each buoyant apparatus and lifefloat must—

(A) Meet the liferaft stowage requirements in §199.130(c) (1), (2), (3), (6), and (7); or

(B) Meet the liferaft stowage requirements in §199.130(c) (1), (2), (3), and (6), and have lashings that can be easily released.

(iii) A painter must be secured to the buoyant apparatus or lifefloat by—

(A) The attachment fitting provided by the manufacturer; or

(B) A wire or line that encircles the body of the buoyant apparatus or lifefloat, that will not slip off, and that meets the requirements of paragraph (4)(iii) of this section.

(iv) If buoyant apparatus or lifefloats are arranged in groups with each group secured by a single painter—

(A) The combined mass of each group must not exceed 185 kilograms (407.8 pounds);

(B) Each buoyant apparatus or lifefloat must be individually attached to the group's single painter by its own painter, which must be long enough to allow the buoyant apparatus or lifefloat to float without contacting any other buoyant apparatus or lifefloat in the group;

(C) The strength of the float-free link and the strength of the group's single painter must be appropriate for the combined capacity of the group of buoyant apparatus or lifefloats;

(D) The group of buoyant apparatus or lifefloats must not be stowed in more than four tiers and, when stowed in tiers, the separate units must be kept apart by spacers; and

(E) The group of buoyant apparatus or lifefloats must be stowed to prevent shifting with easily detached lashings.

(3) *Marking.* Each buoyant apparatus or lifefloat must be marked plainly in block capital letters and numbers with the name of the vessel and the number

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of persons approved to use the device as shown on its nameplate.

(4) *Equipment.* Unless otherwise stated in this paragraph, each buoyant apparatus and lifefloat must carry the equipment listed in this paragraph and specified for it in table 199.640(j) of this section under the vessel's category of service.

(i) *Boathook.*

(ii) *Paddle.* Each paddle must be at least 1.2 meters (4 feet) long and buoyant.

(iii) *Painter.* The painter must—

(A) Be at least 30 meters (100 feet) long, but not less than three times the distance from the deck where the buoyant apparatus, inflatable buoyant apparatus, or lifefloats are stowed to the vessel's waterline with the vessel in its lightest seagoing condition;

(B) Have a breaking strength of at least 6.7 kiloNewtons (1,500 pounds-force), or if the capacity of the buoyant apparatus or lifefloat is 50 persons or more, have a breaking strength of at least 13.4 kiloNewtons (3,000 pounds-force);

(C) If made of a synthetic material, be of a dark color or be certified by the manufacturer to be resistant to deterioration from ultraviolet light;

(D) Be stowed in such a way that it runs out freely when the buoyant apparatus or lifefloat floats away from the sinking vessel; and

(E) Have a float-free link meeting the requirements of part 160, subpart 160.073 of this chapter secured to the end of the painter that is attached to the vessel, that is of the proper strength for the size and number of the buoyant apparatus or lifefloats attached to the float-free link.

(iv) *Self-igniting light.* The self-igniting light must be approved under approval series 161.010 and must be attached to the buoyant apparatus or lifefloat by a 12-thread manila or equivalent lanyard that is at least 5.5 meters (18 feet) long.

TABLE 199.640(j)—BUOYANT APPARATUS AND LIFEFLOAT EQUIPMENT

Item No.	Item	Oceans, coast-wise, and Great Lakes	Lakes, bays, sounds, and rivers
i	Boathook ¹	1	1
ii	Paddles ¹	2	2
iii	Painter	1	1
iv	Self-igniting light ²	1

NOTES:

¹Not required to be carried on buoyant apparatus.

²Not required to be carried on buoyant apparatus or life floats with a capacity of 24 persons or less.

[CGD 84-069, 61 FR 25313, May 20, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 52821, Oct. 1, 1998]